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CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A topical composition comprising:
 - a topical anesthetic;
 - a polymeric thickener selected from the group consisting of shear-
 - 5 thinning polysaccharide gums and shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymers;
 - a lipophilic component that is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic C₁ to C₈ alcohol, an aliphatic C₈ to C₃₀ ester, a liquid polyol and a mixture thereof;
 - water; and
 - 10 a buffer system that provides a buffered pH value for said composition in the range of about 3 to about 7.4.
2. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a vasoactive prostaglandin selected from the group consisting of PGE₁, PGA₁, PGB₁, PGF_{1 α} , 19-hydroxy-
- 15 PGA₁, 19-hydroxy-PGB₁, PGE₂, PGA₂, PGB₂, 19-hydroxy-PGA₂, 19-hydroxy-PGB₂, PGE₃, PGF₃ and mixtures thereof.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the vasoactive prostaglandin is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandin E₁, prostaglandin E₂, a
- 20 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a lower alkyl ester thereof and a mixture thereof.
4. The composition of claim 2 wherein the vasoactive prostaglandin is present in the amount of about 0.1 mg to about 0.5 mg.
- 25 5. The composition of claim 2 wherein the vasoactive prostaglandin is present in the amount of about 0.2 mg to about 0.3 mg.

6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the topical anesthetic is an aminoamide local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, dibucaine, propivacaine, etidocaine, tocainide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.
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7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the topical anesthetic is a local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, dyclonine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.
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8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the topical anesthetic comprises about 0.01 to about 10 percent by weight based on the weight of the composition.
9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the polymeric thickener is a shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymer.
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10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a galactomannan gum.
11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a modified galactomannan gum.
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12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the modified galactomannan gum is a modified guar gum.
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13. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a penetration enhancer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl-(N-substituted amino) alkanoate, an alkyl-2-(N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanoate, an (N-substituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, an (N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.
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14. The composition of claim 13 wherein the penetration enhancer is dodecyl 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-propionate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
- 5 15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of monoglycerides, diglycerides, triglycerides, and mixtures thereof.
- 10 16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyristin, tristearin, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 17. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises an emulsifier selected from the group consisting of sucrose esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, long chain alcohols, and glyceryl esters.
18. The composition of claim 1 wherein the emulsifier comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyristin, tristearin, and mixtures thereof.
- 20 19. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises up to about 5 percent myrtenol, based on the total weight of the composition.
- 25 20. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises a preservative.
21. The method of claim 14 wherein the composition further comprises a fragrance.
22. A method of treating premature ejaculation in a patient needing such treatment comprising the steps of:
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administering meatally an ejaculation latency prolonging amount of a semi-solid composition, comprising

a topical anesthetic;

a polymeric thickener selected from the group consisting of shear-thinning polysaccharide gums and shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymers;

a lipophilic component that is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic C₁ to C₈ alcohol, an aliphatic C₈ to C₃₀ ester, a liquid polyol and a mixture thereof;

water; and

a buffer system that provides a buffered pH value for said composition in the range of about 3 to about 7.4.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a vasoactive prostaglandin selected from the group consisting of PGE₁, PGA₁, PGB₁, PGF_{1α}, 19-hydroxy-PGA₁, 19-hydroxy-PGB₁, PGE₂, PGA₂, PGB₂, 19-hydroxy-PGA₂, 19-hydroxy-PGB₂, PGE₃, PGF₃ and mixtures thereof present in the amount of about 0.1 mg to about 0.5 mg.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein vasoactive prostaglandin is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandin E₁, prostaglandin E₂, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a lower alkyl ester thereof and a mixture thereof.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein the vasoactive prostaglandin is present in the amount of about 0.2 mg to about 0.3 mg.

26. The method of claim 22 wherein the topical anesthetic is an aminoamide local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, dibucaine, propivacaine, etidocaine, tocainide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.

27. The method of claim 22 wherein the topical anesthetic is a local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, dyclonine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.
- 5 28. The method of claim 22 wherein the topical anesthetic comprises about 0.01 to about 4 percent by weight based on the weight of the composition.
29. The method of claim 22 wherein the polymeric thickener is a shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymer.
- 10 30. The method of claim 22 wherein the polymer is a shear-thinning polysaccharide gum.
31. The method of claim 22 wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a galactomannan gum.
- 15 32. The method of claim 22, wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a modified galactomannan gum.
- 20 33. The method of claim 32 wherein the modified galactomannan gum is a modified guar gum.
34. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a penetration enhancer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl-(N-substituted amino) alkanoate, an alkyl-2-(N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanoate, an (N-substituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, an (N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.
- 25 35. The method of claim 34 wherein the penetration enhancer is dodecyl 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-propionate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
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36. The method of claim 22 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one aliphatic C₈ to C₃₀ ester.
- 5 37. The method of claim 22 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting monoglycerides, diglycerides, triglycerides, and mixtures thereof.
- 10 38. The method of claim 22 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyrustin, tristearin, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 39. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises an emulsifier selected from the group consisting of sucrose esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, long chain alcohols, and glyceryl esters.
- 20 40. The method of claim 22 wherein the emulsifier comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyrustin, tristearin, and mixtures thereof.
41. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises up to about 5 percent myrtenol, based on the total weight of the composition.
- 25 42. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a preservative.
43. The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a fragrance.